

Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee (SFLOAC) Meeting

Tuesday, September 18th 2007 9:00am-3:00pm

Members Present: Dennis Dart, Maurice Williamson, Phil Hess, Jeffrey Thomas, Mark Hicks

Guests: George, Mike R, Jeff Gallehar DNR, Mark Engel DNR, Chris Mendoza, Todd Bates, Dave Whipple DNR, Chase Davis Upper Columbia Tribes (by phone), Adrian Miller, Sally B WDFW, Bill Ehinger DOE

Updates from Mary McDonald: DNR will be doing training for its employees on the Forest Practices Applications, Forest Practices 101, and Riparian Function

Jeff Galleher updated everyone on the long-term application development and that was approved by the Forest Practices Board last meeting. Three drafts application were provided and as well as samples of the information pamphlet. Let them know if you see any "fatal" flaws.

Vicki Christianson has asked the SFLOAC to write a letter to the FP Board identifying projects we would like them to focus their attention on. They would like it by their October retreat so they can plan the year ahead. Suggestions included;

- a study to find out how much harvestable timber is being overlooked because of over-complicated rules
- more attention from CMER (or someone else, possibly ESAG, CMER isn't equipped to do it) to the economic aspects and concerns in the industry to protect its viability
- more attention to the conversion issue of forests disappearing from the landscape, would like to see a study done
- a review of the Forest Health Stand Recommendations (to address the eastside mortality)

Other thoughts that came up during discussion but necessarily meant for the letter were;

- Should the SFLOAC be involved in some way with the new state Office of Farmland Preservation
- More work like the new Future of Washington Forests publication, but less anecdotal about the conversion issue

Bill Ehinger from Ecology presented the temperature modeling study to the Committee. The study was initially requested by the Small Forest Landowners Work Group before it was rolled into the SFLOAC. When developing the study, the initial question asked was "how close can you operate next to a stream and maintain necessary temperatures?" The conclusion was that too many variables exist and that with missing groundwater data you couldn't really develop any guidelines based on it. Alternate

plans are still the best way to deal with situations like this; a template can't be developed at this time.

The Eastside Mortality Template was reintroduced. The last time it was presented, it was by the SFLO Work Group in 2005 and the eastside tribes opposed it with comments and letters. Chase Davis was asked to join the meeting to explain their opposition. They basically thought it was too broad, that it didn't fit its original intention of forest health, that alternate plans were a better way to deal with the issue, and would like the SFLOAC to rewrite the template considering their proposals. Other ideas and thoughts that came up during discussion were;

- That the original intention was to establish criteria to identify the when you decide that the stand is losing function and is failing
- To consider it as a salvage proposal and reforest with more appropriate species
- That the template definitely id'd a need, but didn't feel it was scientifically based and didn't fit the original intention of a forest health template
- Are we wasting time on this, just to end up going to an alternate plan?
- Should we improve the alternate plan process instead of developing the template?
- Should we have a charter so that when we do start to re-work it, everyone knows their responsibilities?

Many of the committee members were not up to date on the comments and the most recent version of the template, so it was tabled until the next meeting. Mary will send out the information for next meeting.

Next meeting will be October 12th 2007. (After that we will go back to the regular schedule)

The November meeting will be in Ellensburg (location yet TBD)